

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An autotensioner comprising:

a base that has a bottomed tubular shape;

a rocking arm that has a tubular part rotatably supported at the inside of said base;

a pulley that is attached to one end of said rocking arm, and abuts against a belt;

a torsion coil spring that is housed in said base, and biases rotation of said rocking arm in a direction tensioning said belt with respect to said base; and

a friction member that is interposed between an outer circumferential surface of said tubular part and an inner circumferential surface of said base;

said torsion coil spring being attached eccentrically to the axial center of said base, one end of said torsion coil spring is connected to said base and the other end of said torsion coil spring is connected to said rocking arm, and said rocking arm being supported to be able to be displaced relative to said base, such that a first damping force acting on said rocking arm when said belt is tensioned is relatively larger than a second damping force acting on said rocking arm when said belt is slack.

2. (Previously Presented) The autotensioner according to claim 1, wherein said rocking arm is attached movably in the radial direction to said base.

3. (Previously Presented) The autotensioner according to claim 1, wherein said friction member is provided across a range of at least 180 degrees around the axial center of said base, a part of said tubular part being biased to be pushed against said friction member by said torsion coil spring.

4. (Previously Presented) The autotensioner according to claim 3, wherein said friction member is provided with a plurality of projections for dispersing the load acting in a direction in which said torsion coil spring pushes and biases said friction member.

5. Canceled

6. (Previously Presented) The autotensioner according to claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the first damping force is 1.5 to 3.5 times the magnitude of the second damping force.

7-20. Canceled